

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian S. Tomko on 2/12/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please add the following language to the end of claim 1:

--wherein the transverse portion of the expander has a diameter, the washer has a first configuration, where the diameter of the washer is approximately equal to the diameter of the transverse portion, and a second configuration, where the diameter of the washer is greater than the transverse portion, and wherein when the expander is at the distal position, the washer is in the first configuration, and when the expander is in the proximal position, the washer is in the second configuration such that the outer perimeter of the washer contacts the internal cavity to cause the wall of the sleeve to expand transversely to contact the surface of the canal.—

Please cancel claim 2.

In claim 3, line 1, please replace "claim 2" with --claim 1--.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANN SCHILLINGER whose telephone number is (571)272-6652. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Isabella can be reached on (571) 272-4749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. S./

Examiner, Art Unit 3774

/DAVID ISABELLA/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3774